

Point In Time

Count of Homeless Persons in Snohomish County



2010
Point In
Time



*Snohomish County Human Services Department
Office of Housing, Homelessness and Community Development*



*Homeless Policy Task Force
Snohomish County Washington*

2010
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Count of Homeless Persons in Snohomish County

Point in Time Count Committee Members

Salvation Army

Jerry Gadek, Angel Johnson and Dana Libby

Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County

Kelly Claggett

YWCA

Kusum Batey, Maria Bighaus and Cathy Chovan

Housing Authority of Snohomish County

Kristen Cane

Volunteers of America

Bill Humphreys

Housing Hope

Nate Greenland, Karen Matson and Jessye O. Schmitz

Cocoon House

Marty Arellano and Wayne Nash

Monroe Women's Gospel Mission

Dorothy Stima

Everett Gospel Mission

Sylvia Anderson

Interfaith Association

Mary Ellen Wood

OHHCD

Jackie Anderson, Lindsey Legaspi, Nate Marti and Dean Weitenhagen

Report prepared by the Point in Time Count Committee and
Snohomish County Human Services Department
Office of Housing, Homelessness and Community
Development's (OHHCD) Nate Marti

Layout prepared by
Snohomish County Human Services
Susan Foster-Brereton

We recognize the many agency and community
volunteers across the County who interviewed the
individuals and families represented in this document.



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2010 POINT IN TIME COUNT OF HOMELESS PERSONS

On January 28, 2010 in Snohomish County,
2,362 individuals in 1,335 households were counted as homeless.

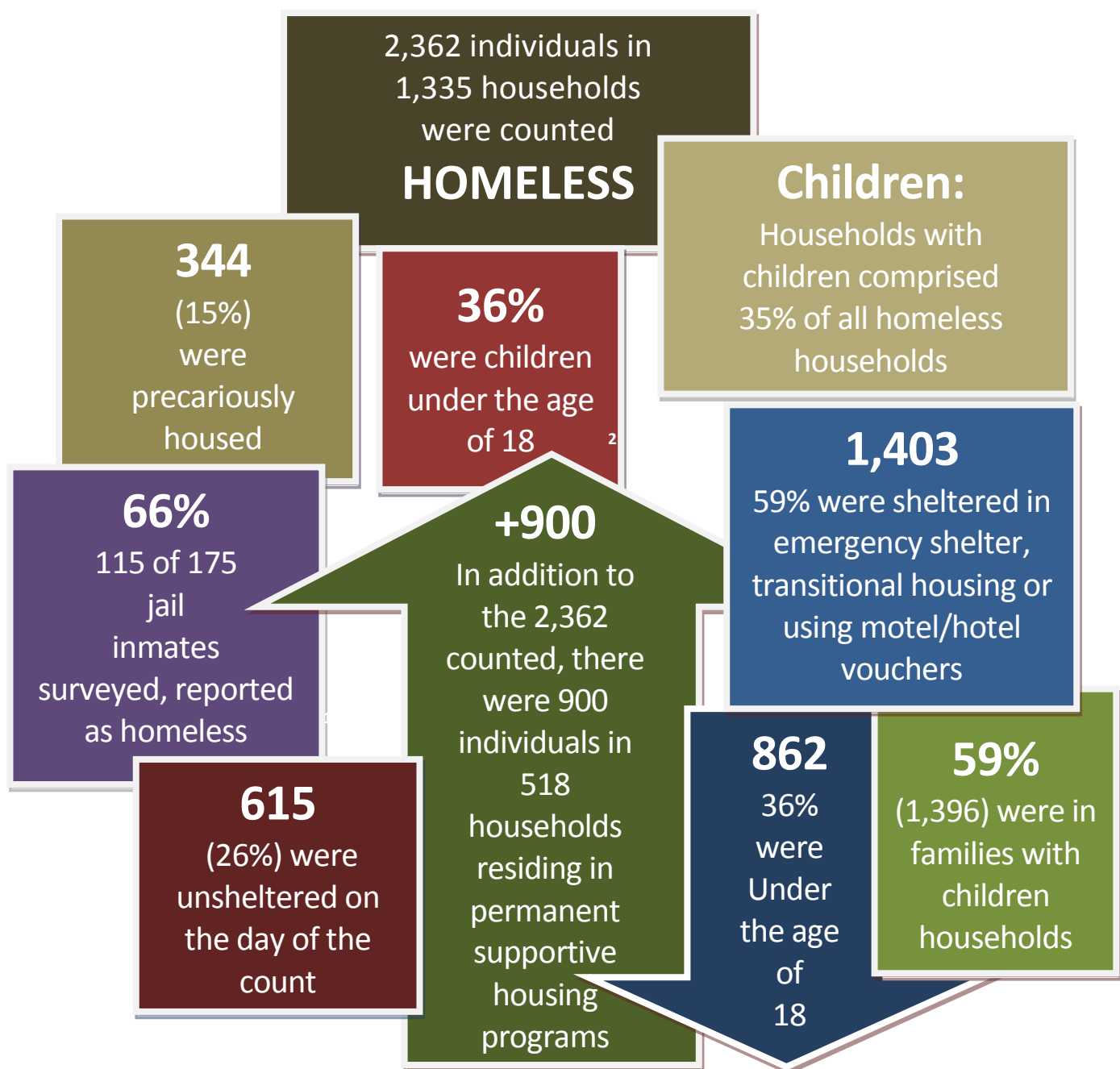
Homeless Populations	Street Count		Facility Count		Total Households	Total Individuals
	Unsheltered	Precariously Housed ¹	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing ²		
1. # of Households with Children	44	43	46	329	462	
2. # of Individuals in Households with Children	166	138	128	964		1,396
3. # of Households without Children	395	168	228	82	873	
4. # of Single Individuals and Persons in Households without Children	449	206	228	83		966
Total Individuals	615	344	356	1,047	1,335	2,362



¹ **Precariously Housed:** Persons sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason (often referred to as “doubled up” or “couch surfing”).

² **Transitional Housing:** a program designed to provide housing and appropriate support services to homeless persons to facilitate movement to independent living within 24 months.

STANDOUT DATA YEAR 2010: BY THE NUMBERS



¹ Includes those counted from tic method and those surveyed who answered they were unsheltered the night before.

² Long-term community-based housing and supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities: The intent of this type of supportive housing is to enable this special needs population to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. The supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the housing or provided by other public or private service agencies. There is no definite length of stay.

OPENING STATEMENTS

"No one who wants a permanent home should be without one," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "It falls to the citizens, through the government, to assist those who seek a permanent home and to help those families on the brink of losing their homes. Together, we can continue to work to achieve the American Dream: a family and a home in which to nurture them."



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world...indeed it is the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead

That is what is at the heart of the PIT Count. It is the citizens, volunteers, housing agencies, service agency representatives and local government working together toward a successful outcome; hearing the voice of the homeless by their willingness to be interviewed. Together we can strive to end homelessness. The PIT count is more than numbers; it is a cry from our fellow citizens to continue fighting for everyone to have a home now! We believe steady progress to this end is being made despite unavoidable setbacks such as our Nation's slumping economy. We will continue to collaborate with service providers and mainstream resources. It is our hope that the PIT Reports continue to serve our community as an excellent tool to identify gaps in service, housing, program development and funding resources.

Thank you to all who made this report possible. May it inspire and motivate the citizens of Snohomish County to end homelessness for every man, woman and child.

Together we aspire; together we achieve!!

Sincerely,

Sylvia Anderson, Executive Director Everett Gospel Mission & Homeless Policy Task Force Co-Chair

Dean Weitenhagen, Snohomish County Human Services Department Office of Housing, Homelessness and Community Development Supervisor & Homeless Policy Task Force Co-Chair

What is the PIT Count?

The Annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT) data provides a snapshot of homelessness in Snohomish County and is **not** intended to be a complete count of all homeless persons. There are many variables that limit our ability to count every person including the vast geographic area, weather, the time frame and method used to make the count. While we are not able to literally count every person, we are able to gather data that tells us about the characteristics, needs and causes of homelessness. While the PIT has limitations on the actual number of people who are experiencing homelessness, it does provide information that can be used in planning; to meet the needs of the homeless and to further our ultimate goal of ending homelessness.

Background

The impetus for the Point In-Time Count is twofold. The federal Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that a PIT Count be conducted annually in January. Additionally, the 2005 Homeless Housing Assistance Act (HB 2163) gave each county in Washington State the responsibility to develop a ten year plan to reduce homelessness by 50% by the year 2016, with the requirement to conduct an annual census of homeless persons.

Many communities refer to this as a “Point in Time Count” of homeless persons because it is conducted on one day of the year. The PIT Committee of the Snohomish County Homeless Policy Task Force has organized the County’s homeless count since 2004.

The Snohomish County community considers an individual to be homeless if he or she:

- Does not have a decent and safe shelter or sufficient funds to purchase a place to stay.
- Is living in an emergency or transitional shelter or temporarily with friends or family: “couch surfing”.
- Is living in a dwelling lacking drinking water, a restroom, heat and/or the ability to prepare hot food.

Methodology

The count was conducted on January 28, 2010 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM. To explain the PIT and encourage individuals to complete a survey on the day of the count, signs were posted ahead of time at various high traffic areas around the County and in most of the facilities serving the homeless population.

Street Count

Snohomish County’s geographic makeup is unique with both urban and rural areas spread across a broad expanse of land. In an effort to cover as much ground as possible, the County was divided into four regions: north, south, east and central. Agency leaders were established in each region and responsible for volunteer recruitment. These leaders had a map of their region and assigned survey volunteers. This provided a way to track the areas being counted and ensure the safety of volunteers. Volunteers were directed to a variety of areas known as “hot spots” for homeless people such as libraries, food banks, laundromats, bus stations, health clinics, encampments, etc. A network of providers with a great deal of knowledge regarding locations where unsheltered homeless people were living assisted with targeting those groups on the day of the count. Homeless heads of households were asked to complete a survey about themselves and all household members. If the

individual declined to participate or the volunteer determined it may have been dangerous to approach an individual, the tic sheet method was used to collect information. With the tic sheet method, genders and ages (whether the individual was a child or an adult over the age of 18) of visible household members were recorded.

Unsheltered, Sheltered and Jail Surveys

Individual information was collected for all known members in homeless households, including their initials, date of birth, gender, age and disabilities. The majority of data was collected at the household level and included veteran status; the date the occupants became homeless; the number of homeless episodes in the past year (including the previous one to three years); causes of homelessness; location of last night's stay; needs and household sources of income. Survey information on the categories listed above was based solely on self-reported data from participants.

Of the 439 unsheltered households, 182 heads of household completed the survey; representing a total of 241 household members with the remaining 257 households (374 individuals) counted through the 'tic' method. As noted above, the tic sheet identified the individual's gender (if known), whether the individual was a child or an adult over the age of 18, and the individual's household type.

In addition to the unsheltered count, emergency shelter and transitional housing providers were asked to complete a facility survey to capture the homeless households sheltered on the night of January 27th. The facility survey captured data on chronic homelessness, veteran status, mental disability, alcohol and/or other drug issues, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, physical disability and other demographics. Furthermore, sheltered households were asked to participate in completing a survey identical to the street survey. Of the 1,403 sheltered individuals, 499 heads of household completed the survey; representing a total of 1,145 household members.

A slightly different survey was administered by Snohomish County Corrections. One hundred seventy five incarcerated individuals completed surveys. Of this sampling, 116 (66%) reported being either homeless when entering jail or expected to be homeless when exiting jail. Information was collected on incarcerated individuals only and did not include family member information.

Constraints of the Data

The **street survey analysis** represents all unsheltered and doubled-up homeless person who were **located** on January 28, 2010. It does not represent a comprehensive count of all homeless persons in the County. Additionally, since the count was conducted during one day of the year, the data only provides a snapshot of homelessness in Snohomish County. It is therefore important to keep in mind that not only is the total number of homeless individuals fluctuating, but the types of homeless individuals and households may vary drastically from month-to-month and season-to-season. Factors that may have influenced a homeless individual's likelihood of filling out a survey include: the manner in which they were approached; whether or not they were first asked if they were homeless; if they were sleeping, intoxicated or mentally ill as well as cultural factors. It is also likely there were individuals not located because they were living in hard to find areas or allowed a place to stay with a friend for the day, etc.

Also, some of the survey questions were open to interpretation. Included were sections on individual disabilities, chronic homelessness and self-reported causes of homelessness. Since the

information was self-reported, it was difficult to standardize. Self-reported causes of homelessness posed the same challenges as self-reported disabilities. One individual may have selected indirect factors contributing to their homelessness while another may have only selected factors they thought were instrumental causes.

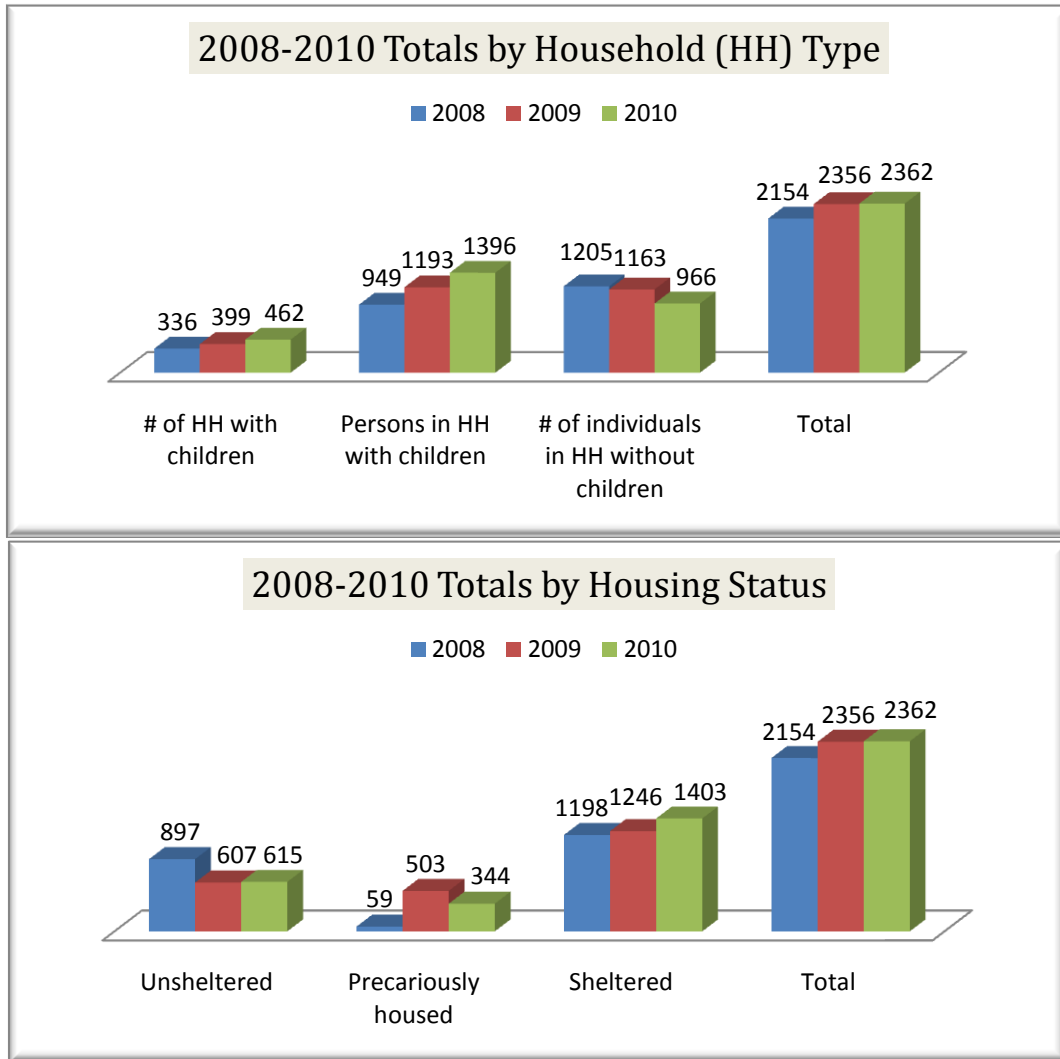
The **sheltered analysis** represents all of the homeless persons in emergency and transitional housing. The analysis consisted of examining facility surveys and data represented by facility household surveys. Although facility surveys generated concrete data on totals in emergency and transitional housing, we were reliant on the surveys completed by 469 households to provide further details (i.e. reasons for homelessness, causes for homelessness, household information, etc.). As stated above, some of the survey questions are open to interpretation.

While there are always constraints to any data set, the PIT Committee made positive strides in improving the information represented in this report.

How you can help. Included at the end of this report is a list of agencies you may contact to see how you may help their programs serve households in need. If you are interested in participating in the Snohomish County Homeless Policy Task Force, please contact Jackie Anderson 425-388-3237.



2008-2010 TRENDS

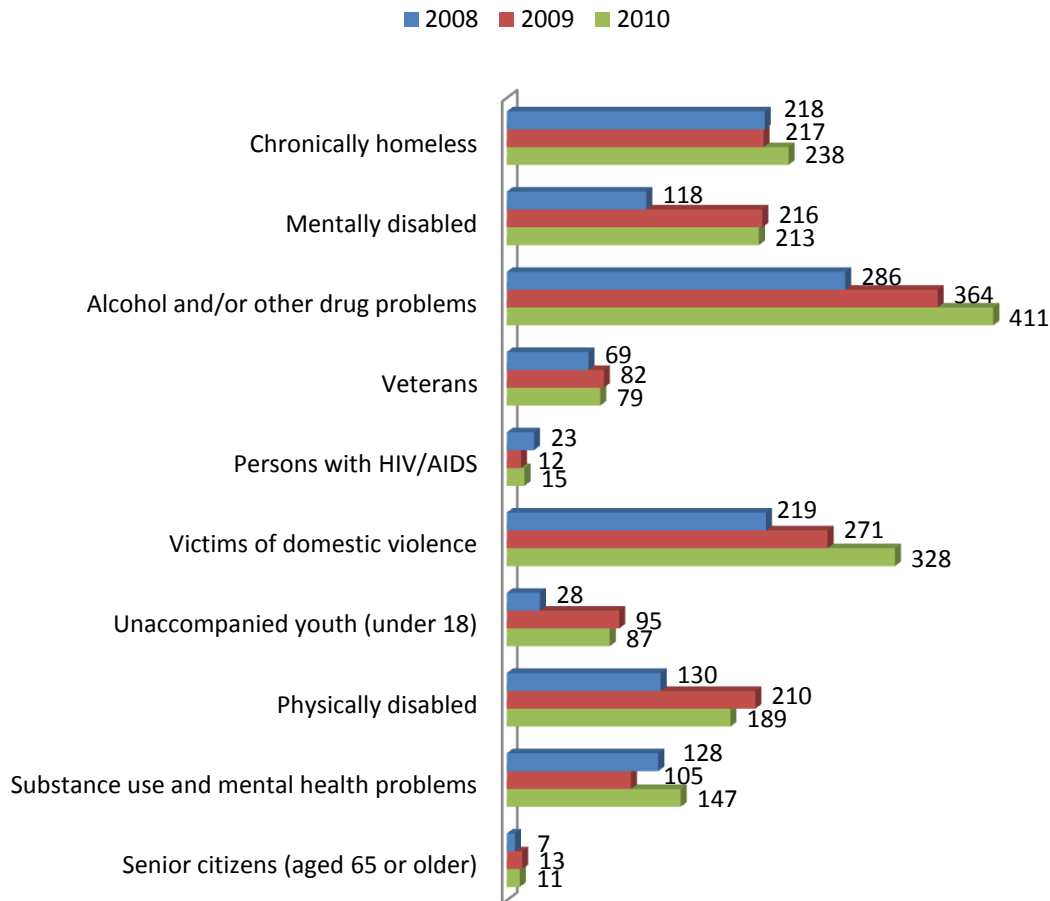


As stated earlier, not only can the total number of homeless individuals fluctuate when using the PIT method, but the types of homeless individuals and households can vary drastically from month-to-month and season-to-season. The first table above illustrates a slight increase in the total count, yet a decrease over the last three years for individuals in households without children. Because the majority of our sheltered capacity is geared toward households with children³, it is much easier to count those households as they are accounted for in the agency programs. On the other hand, the street count is primarily made up of individuals and households without children⁴. The street count consists of many more variables than the sheltered count (i.e. weather, number of volunteers, vast geographic area and safety); thus the decrease shown for this population is merely the result of the factors contributing to the difficulties of conducting a street count.

³ Households with children made up 70% in 08, 76% in 09 and 78% in 2010 of the sheltered counts (Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing).

⁴ Individuals in households without children made up 70% in 08, 84% in 09 and 73% in 2010 of the unsheltered count.

2008-2010 Homeless Subpopulations Data



<i>Subpopulation</i>	<i>Percentage Change from Previous Year</i>
Persons with both substance use and mental health problems	40.00%
Persons with HIV/AIDS	25.00%
Victims of domestic violence	21.00%
Persons with alcohol and/or other drug problems	12.90%
Chronically homeless	9.70%
Mentally disabled	-1.40%
Veterans	-3.70%
Unaccompanied youth (Under 18 years-of-age)	-8.40%
Physically disabled	-10.00%
Senior citizens (Aged 65 or older)	-15.40%

NEEDS AND CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

A consistent message emerged through a review of PIT survey data collected over the past three years: there is not enough affordable housing (lack of economic opportunity factored into a large number of people experiencing homelessness). The table below lists the top causes and needs identified through surveys conducted from 2008 to 2010.

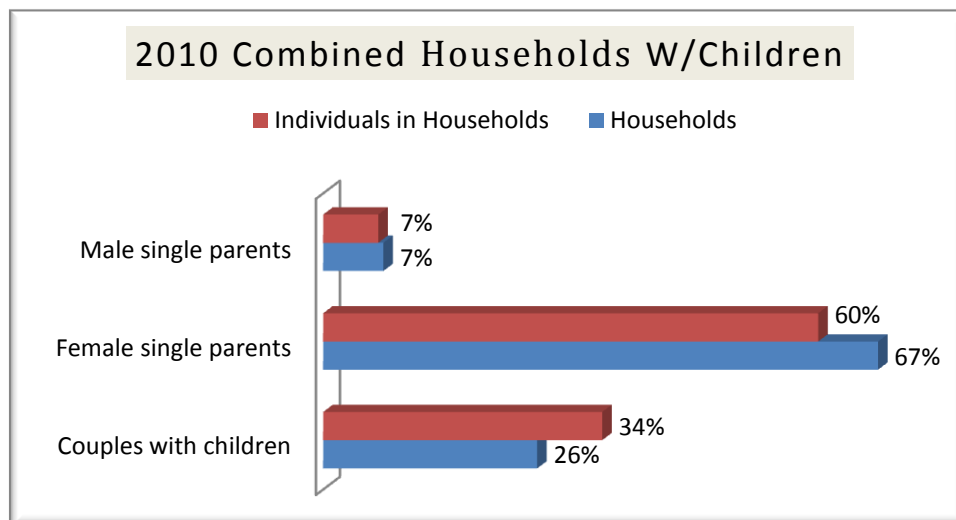
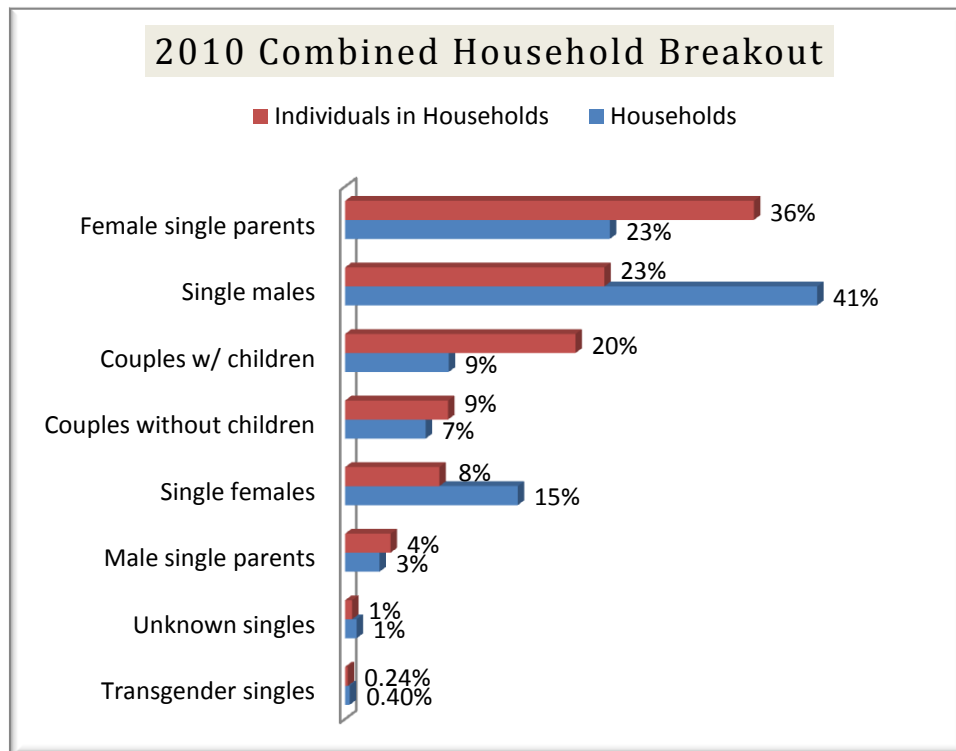
TOP CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS		
<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Job Loss/unemployed	Unable to pay rent / mortgage	Job Loss/unemployed
Unable to pay rent / mortgage	Temp. living situation ended	Unable to pay rent or mortgage
Drug or alcohol use	Drug or alcohol use	Family break-up
Poor credit rating	Job Loss/unemployed	Drug or alcohol use
Family break-up	Mental health issues	Mental health Issues
Temp. living situation ended	Need additional job skills	Temp. living situation ended
Convicted of a criminal offense	Convicted of a criminal offense	Victim of domestic violence
TOP NEEDS		
<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>
Affordable housing	Affordable housing	Affordable housing
Food	Laundromat	Job search assistance
A safe place to stay	Job search assistance	A safe place to stay
A place to clean up/shower	Educational information	A place to clean up/shower
Dental care	Budget assistance	Food
Clothing	Help getting food stamps	Dental care

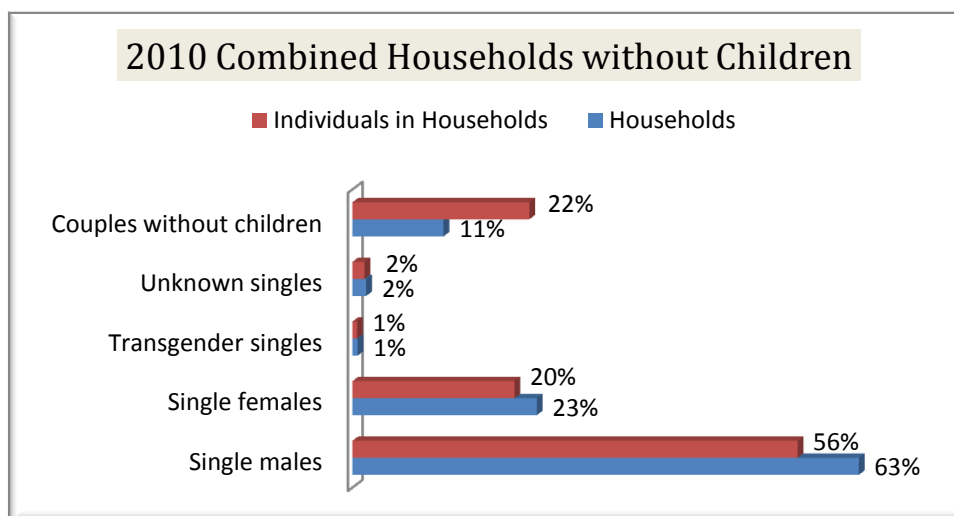
There are numerous causes of homelessness and the most often noted proximate causes are poverty conjoined with the lack of affordable housing and economic opportunities. The recent economic recession placed more households at-risk of becoming homeless; forced more households into homelessness and put additional strain on individuals already homeless. For many people jobs were harder to secure. Job loss or low wages are leading factors in homelessness. In addition, various other factors cause and/or contribute to homelessness. Persons with serious mental illness or chronic substance abuse face significant risk factors for homelessness and homeless individuals experiencing serious mental health or substance abuse issues may be hindered in making progress toward stable in housing.⁵

⁵ 2010-2014 Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan

CURRENT SNAPSHOT

Household Breakouts





HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Homeless families with children comprised **35%** of all homeless households included in the 2010 PIT Count. National statistics show that this population is approximately **34%** of the homeless population, with 23% being children and 11% adults.⁶ Families experiencing homelessness are under an extraordinary amount of stress. This stress causes a multitude of problems varying from negative impacts on physical and emotional health; child behavioral problems including higher rates of anxiety, depression and below average school performance and in some cases, homelessness causes separation of family members as illustrated in the graph below.



CHILDREN NOT CURRENTLY IN HOUSEHOLD ⁷

	Households	Households indicating their children would live with them if they had a better place to live.	Percentage
Single parent household	96	58	60%
Two parent household	42	19	45%

⁶ Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress. (2007). US Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Community Planning and Development. Available at www.huduser.org/Publications/pdf/ahar.pdf; Burt, M. et al. (1999a). *Homelessness: Programs and the People They Serve*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute. Available at www.urbaninstitute.org.

⁷ Homeless households were asked if they had children under age 18 not living in their household, and if so, would they live in their household if they had a better place to live.

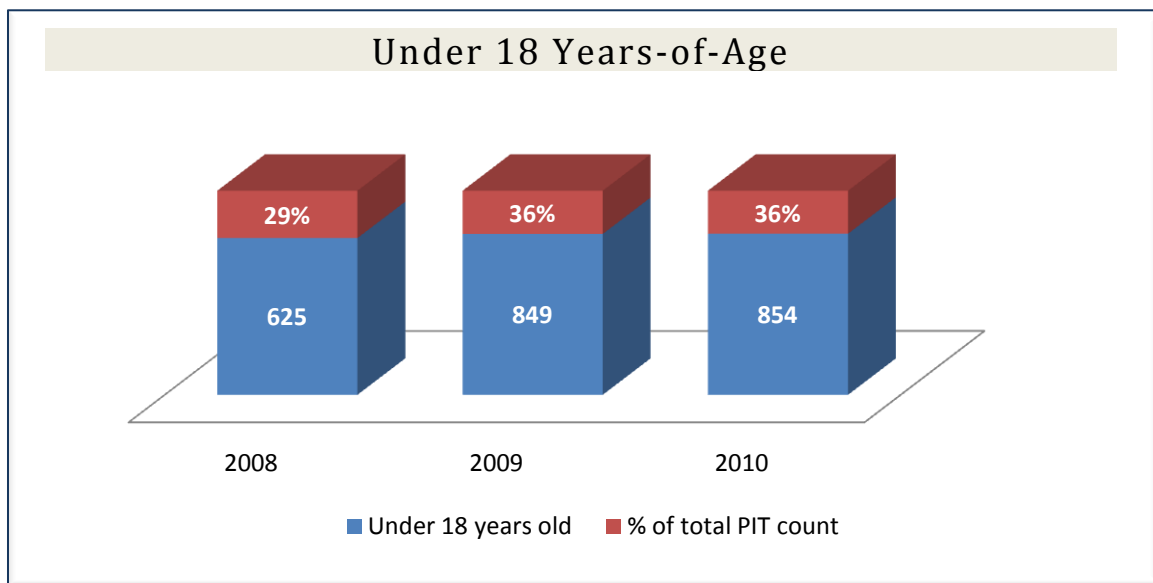
"As a mom who watched CPS take my children away because of my addiction, I can't begin to say how thankful I am - how unbelievable it is - that someone would give me another chance....I hear a lot of others say how hard these programs are; how there's not enough time in the day to do all of your goals and requirements... all I can think about is how much harder it would be if I was back out on the street, with zero chance of seeing my kids grow up..."

*(Permanent Supportive Housing,
High Needs Population, Family with Children)*



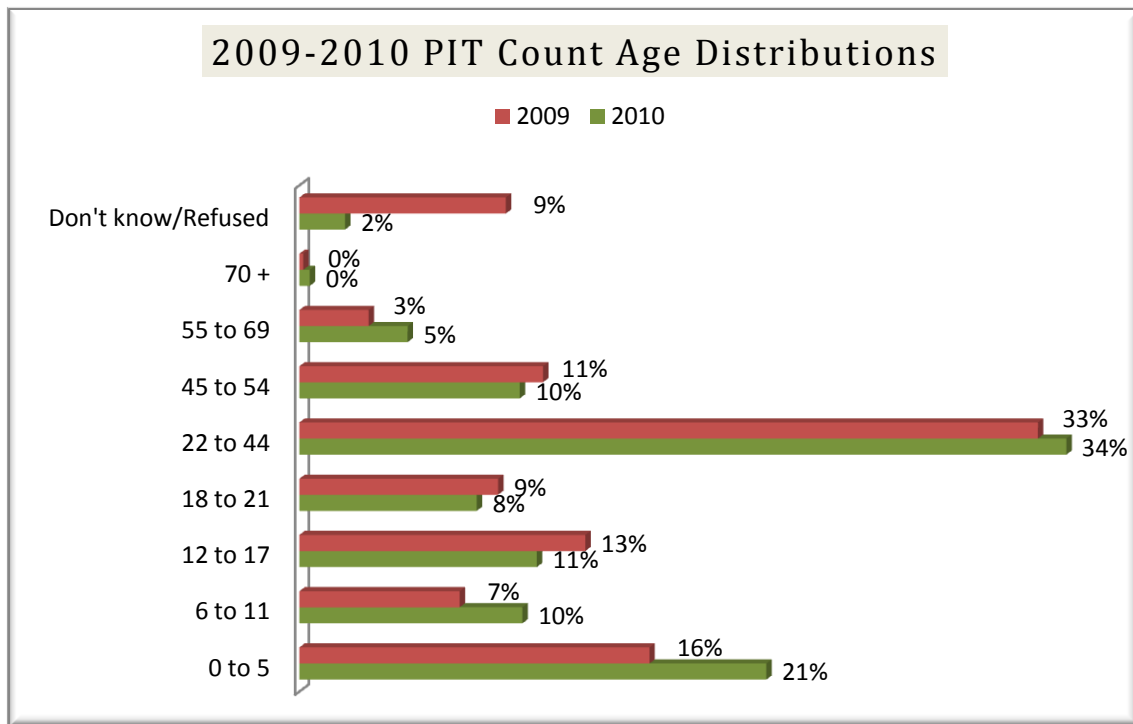
The effects of homelessness on children can be devastating. Homeless children are less healthy than their peers (more asthma, upper respiratory infections, minor skin ailments, gastrointestinal ailments, parasites and chronic physical disorders) experience more developmental delays, anxiety, depression and behavioral problems, poorer school attendance and performance and other negative conditions.⁸

The two graphs below show the staggering number of young children experiencing homelessness. Age 0-11 makes up one of the largest age demographics in the 2nd graph.



*Above graph includes all surveys and tic sheet data.

⁸ Buckner, J.C. 2004. Children, Impact of Homelessness on. In Levinson, D. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Homelessness*, Vol 1. Thousand Oaks, CA: Berkshire Publishing Group.



Counts	0-5	6 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 21	22 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 69	70 +	Don't know/Refused
2009	273	125	223	155	576	190	54	3	161
2010	358	171	182	136	588	169	83	8	35

*Above graph is based on facility and street surveys. Does not include tic sheet data.⁹

Homeless families are typically headed by a single mother. In Snohomish County, single mothers with children comprised **67%** of the households with children (compared to 55% in 2009). Single mothers experiencing homelessness often express feelings of shame, anger, sadness, fear, depression and hopelessness.

In the 2010 PIT Count domestic violence was indicated as the number one cause of homelessness for single mothers (same as 2009 PIT Count). The count identified **328** women fleeing domestic violence (compared to 271 in 09). These women are often forced to choose between homelessness and staying in their abusive relationship.

“As a single mom with a brand new baby (and toddler in tow), the thought of being put out on the street was the scariest thing I had ever faced...I was 24 hours from complete darkness when the transitional housing program found me...now 20 months later, I am completing an educational path that will ensure my kids are removed from the poverty cycle and will grow up to be self-sufficient and independent!

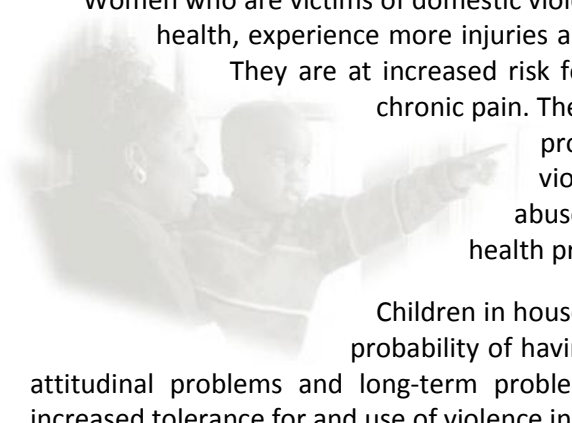
...Single Mom, Transitional Housing, Sound Families Program

⁹ Tic sheets only record ages as “under the age of 18” and “18 and above.” Tic sheet data recorded 46 individuals under the age of 18.

Women who are victims of domestic violence generally have poorer overall physical and mental health, experience more injuries and use health services more often than other women.

They are at increased risk for traumatic brain injury, strangulation, disability and chronic pain. They also report a variety of symptoms including digestive problems, fainting, pelvic and genital pain. Domestic violence is associated with depression, anxiety, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems.¹⁰


Children in households exposed to domestic violence face an increased probability of having behavioral, social / emotional problems; cognitive / attitudinal problems and long-term problems including higher levels of adult depression and increased tolerance for and use of violence in adult relationships.¹¹



"I am a single mother of three boys. We are currently living in transitional housing as a direct result of felony domestic violence. I was very fortunate to have been provided a place that we, for now, can call our own. I was provided with a family advocate and she really helps our family make it - at times, from day to day. I play a very active role in my children's education, their continued therapy and my therapy, in order to help us heal and overcome our past situation.

I can't express enough, the importance of this program to our entire family. If we were not provided with this housing, my children would be on the run from their father and I would not be writing these words to you at this time."

...YWCA Client



"I have been homeless for a year as a direct result of domestic violence. The feeling of instability and uncertainty was unbearable. Now that we are in transitional housing, that feeling is gone, or at least diminished. I would like to see more housing opportunities and shorter waiting lists for vouchers, as well as more shelter availability."

...Anonymous

¹⁰ <http://www.doh.wa.gov/HWS/doc/IV/IV-DV2007.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/domesticviolence.cfm>

The table below shows some of the top needs, conditions and causes of homelessness for victims of domestic violence identified in the 2010 count.

VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Three hundred twenty eight of the individuals surveyed reported they were victims of domestic violence.

<i>Top Needs</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top Causes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top conditions</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Affordable housing	62%	Victims of domestic violence	54%	Untreated dental	52%
Job search assistance	21%	Family breakup	43%	Substance abuse	44%
Case management	21%	Job Loss/unemployed	41%	Mental illness	36%
Mental health counseling	18%	Unable to pay rent / mortgage	32%	Uncorrected visual	28%
Personal or family counseling	18%	Drug or alcohol use	23%	Permanent physical / medical disability	21%
A safe place to stay	17%	Mental health issues	18%	Developmental disability	17%

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

238 individuals were identified as chronically homeless (compared to 217 in 2009).

<i>Top Needs</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top Causes of Homelessness</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top conditions</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Affordable housing	43%	Drug/alcohol Use	53%	Substance abuse	60%
A safe place to stay	35%	Job loss / unemployed	50%	Untreated dental	47%
A place to cleanup/shower	30%	Unable to pay rent / mortgage	30%	Permanent physical / mental disability	44%
Food	23%	Mental health issues	23%	Uncorrected visual	32%
Alcohol/drug treatment	22%	Family breakup	20%	Developmental disability	25%
Bus ticket	20%	Medical problems/illness	19%	Temporary physical disability	11%

Neighbors and friends experiencing drug addiction, alcoholism, teeth that are rotted to the roots, multiple untreated mental health issues, laundry lists of major or minor law infractions, hepatitis/TB/HIV and challenges with employment, education or credit history, describes the majority of the CHRONICALLY HOMELESS population in Snohomish County. The CHRONICALLY HOMELESS represent 10-15% of the total number of homeless individuals counted both nationally and in Snohomish County. This percentage typically “costs” the taxpayer anywhere from \$40,500 to over \$100,000 per year in resources ranging from hospital emergency room visits to local incarceration. As a group they consume the most disproportionate amount of resources in our community and will continue to do so until we can create the necessary housing units (combined with supportive care) to serve them. As a group their minimal earnings cannot come close to supporting a Fair Market Rent of \$878 for a one-bedroom unit.

Much has been accomplished in serving the CHRONICALLY HOMELESS population since the creation and adoption of *Snohomish County’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness* through collaborative efforts of the Homeless Policy Task Force. Agencies like Catholic Community Services and The Salvation Army spearheaded programs solely to support the CHRONIC HOMELESS population with much success. Looking ahead, the road is long and the challenges difficult - as a community we must stay committed to restoring hope.

“Today I sit here, housed, clean and sober with a GED in my hand. Looking back two years ago, I was passing out in parks, the bushes, the woods; angry at the world for what I thought they owed me - angry at my family for not helping me and angry at myself for blaming everyone else for my stupidity. I look now at these young kids running the streets, - playing like they’re homeless and tough...I try to talk to them, but they’re like I once was - not wanting to listen to anyone. I pray every day that they’ll get the message before it is too late.
... (Permanent Supportive Housing Program Participant).

VETERANS

A total of 102 Veterans were identified on the day of the count. 26 Veterans were unsheltered; 52 sheltered (none were living with family or friends) and 15 were in jail.

<i>Top Needs</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top Causes of Homelessness</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top conditions</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Affordable housing	42%	Job Loss / unemployed	62%	Permanent physical / mental disability	35%
Safe place to stay	29%	Drug / alcohol abuse	29%	Untreated dental	29%
Bus ticket	25%	Medical problems / illness	26%	Substance abuse	29%
Food	24%	Family breakup	22%	Mental illness	27%
Place to cleanup/shower	22%	Unable to pay rent/mortgage	21%	Uncorrected visual	24%
Dental care	22%	Temporary living situation ended	20%	Temporary physical disability	8%

“John’s” (name withheld) story is a familiar one; served his country and learned his addiction while in Vietnam. Fought back against his addiction for about ten years and then finally succumbed to it. He gave up on himself and society and found the streets didn’t judge him as harshly as people did. He came out of 15 years of homelessness last fall and is working his way back to being a contributing member of his community. His most meaningful revelation: “I have people to support me now...(in tears) I forgot what it was like to be supported!”



Although only 102 veterans were identified as homeless in the PIT Count we estimate the true number of homeless veterans to be around 700, based on the total number of veterans in Snohomish County and the average percentage that are homeless in Washington State. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) estimates there are 154,000 homeless veterans nationwide. The VA reports the nation's homeless veterans are mainly males (four percent females). The vast majority of veterans are single and most come from poor, disadvantaged communities; 45% suffer from mental illness and half have substance abuse problems. America’s

homeless veterans served in World War II, the Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Operation Iraqi Freedom or the military's anti-drug cultivation efforts in South America. Forty-seven percent of homeless veterans served during the Vietnam Era. More than 67% served our country for at least three years and 33% were stationed in a war zone. Currently designated housing for veterans in Snohomish County does not exist, however the Homeless Policy Task Force and the Veterans Services Partnership are working to add housing with services for veterans in the County and it is a priority of the County Executive.

HOMELESS JAIL INMATES


<i>Jail Inmates with No Housing Upon Release: Out of 175 inmates surveyed, 116 (66%) reported as homeless.</i>					
<i>Top Needs</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top Causes of Homelessness</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top conditions</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Affordable housing	43%	Job loss / unemployed	61%	Substance abuse	53%
Alcohol / drug treatment	31%	Drug / alcohol abuse	53%	Untreated dental	45%
A Safe place to stay	25%	Kicked out of home	32%	Uncorrected visual	19%
Job search assistance	24%	Family breakup	19%	Permanent physical / mental disability	19%
Dental care	19%	Convicted of a criminal offense	17%	Mental illness	15%
Food	18%	Mental health Issues	16%	Temporary physical disability	8%

There is a strong correlation between homelessness and incarceration. Individuals experiencing homelessness often have substance abuse problems and serious mental illnesses. As shown in the table above, **53%** reported having substance abuse problems and **15%** reported having a mental illness. Those with mental health issues may not be able to cope with the stress of homelessness and subsequently may be at higher risk of committing crimes. Substance abuse issues often lead to arrests for public intoxication, violation of liquor laws or drug possession and/or drug sales. Other homeless criminal activities are predominately minor crimes that directly result from their efforts to survive with few or no resources; e.g. breaking into buildings to escape the elements or stealing cigarettes, clothing or food.¹²

¹²http://www.allacademic.com/meta/p_mla_apa_research_citation/1/8/4/4/0/pages184400/p184400-5.php

HOMELESS YOUTH

<i>Unaccompanied Youth¹³: 87 unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 were identified in the PIT Count.</i>					
<i>Top Needs</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top Causes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Top conditions</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A safe place to stay	38%	Drug or alcohol use	28%	Substance abuse	34%
Clothing	28%	Family breakup	28%	Untreated dental	34%
Job search assistance	26%	Kicked out of home	26%	Mental illness	15%
Food	21%	Job Loss / unemployed	19%	Uncorrected visual	9%
Affordable housing	19%	Temporary living situation ended	13%	Developmental disability	6%
Bus ticket	15%	Victim of domestic violence	11%	Perm. physical / medical disability	6%



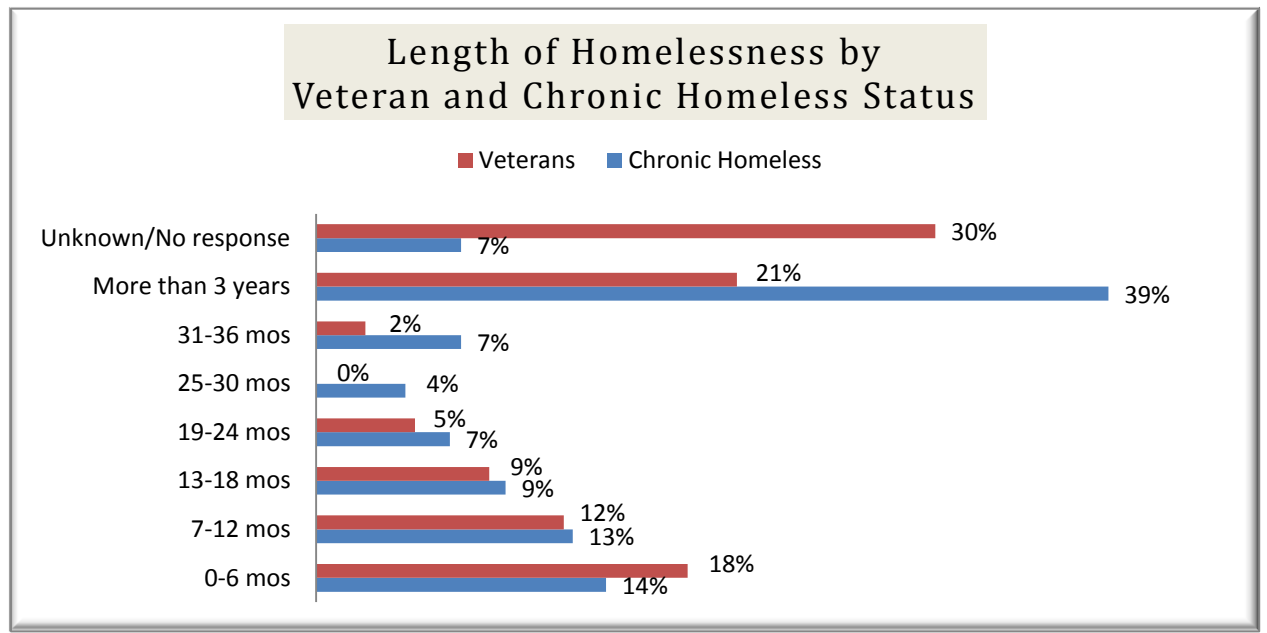
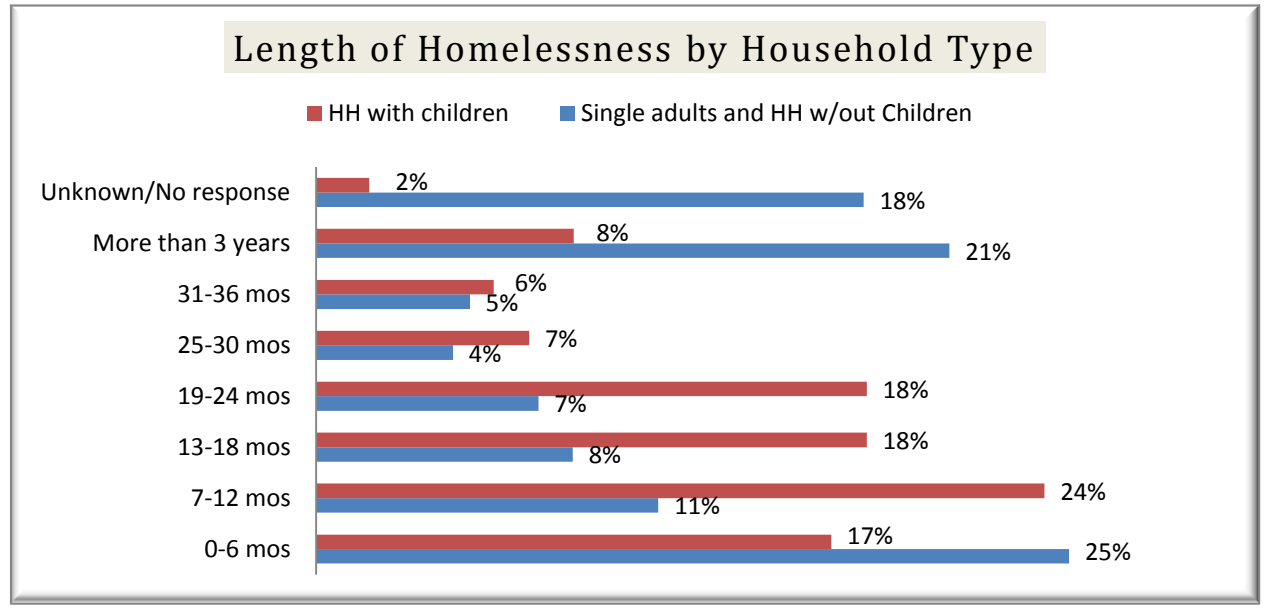
The 2007 National Symposium on Homelessness Research reported that nationally, 7-8% of teens experienced homelessness or disconnection from their family at some point during the year and approximately 15% would experience homelessness at least once before turning 18. The local estimate is that roughly 300 teens are homeless in Snohomish County on any given night with over 1,300 teens homeless annually. The data is troubling given the harsh realities of youth homelessness. Typically, Snohomish County runaway and homeless youth live in campgrounds, their cars, on the streets, in cheap motels or "couch surf" with friends or relatives. Homeless and at-risk teens are extremely vulnerable and often fall victim to drug dealers, physical and/or sexual assault, involvement in prostitution and gangs and crimes of desperation due to lack of food, shelter and other daily necessities. Many of these youth have been betrayed by their parents through physical or sexual abuse and neglect. Thus, they are wary of involvement with adults; especially those who seem to represent authority, such as law enforcement or medical professionals. Lack of medical care can lead to serious conditions if issues are left untreated. Drug and alcohol use is also common and can create serious physiological and emotional problems as use turns to abuse and dependency. This population often becomes an added burden on the court system, due to runaway reports, truancy and other issues. Furthermore, without intervention youth who are homeless are more likely to become adults plagued by chronic homelessness, unemployment, poverty and the same family problems that may have impacted them in their youth (e.g., domestic violence).

Youth often present with multiple issues. For example, 50% of youth served at Cocoon House over the past year reported past physical abuse and 29% reported sexual abuse. Half of the youth presented with a diagnosed mental illness and 61% suffered from drug or alcohol problems. At entrance, 95% percent of the youth had no income. Many teens at Cocoon House were found to have moved multiple times and rarely completed a single grade at the same school. Generally, at entrance, only about 60% of the youth were regularly attending school, with the rest truant, suspended or expelled.

¹³Unaccompanied youth is defined as minors not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, including those living in inadequate housing such as shelters, cars, or on the streets. The definition also includes those who have been denied housing by their families and school-age unwed mothers who have no housing of their own.

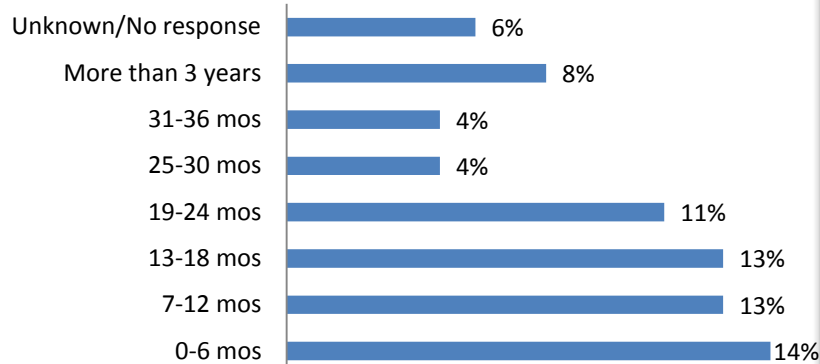
APPENDIX

LENGTH OF HOMELESSNESS¹⁴



¹⁴ Length of homelessness: The survey requested information on how long a person was homeless.

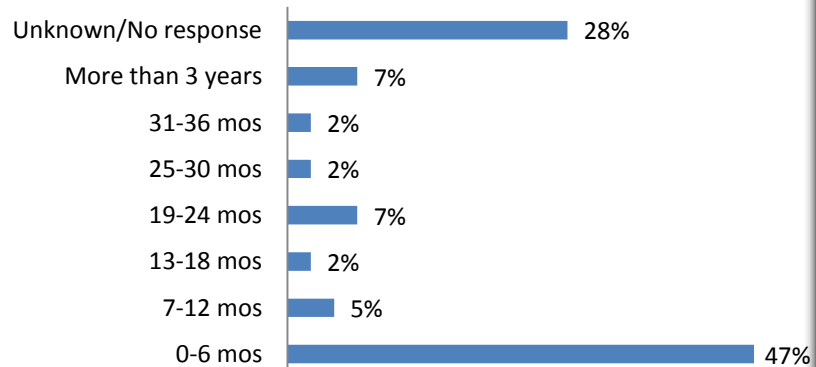
Victims of Domestic Violence Length of Homelessness



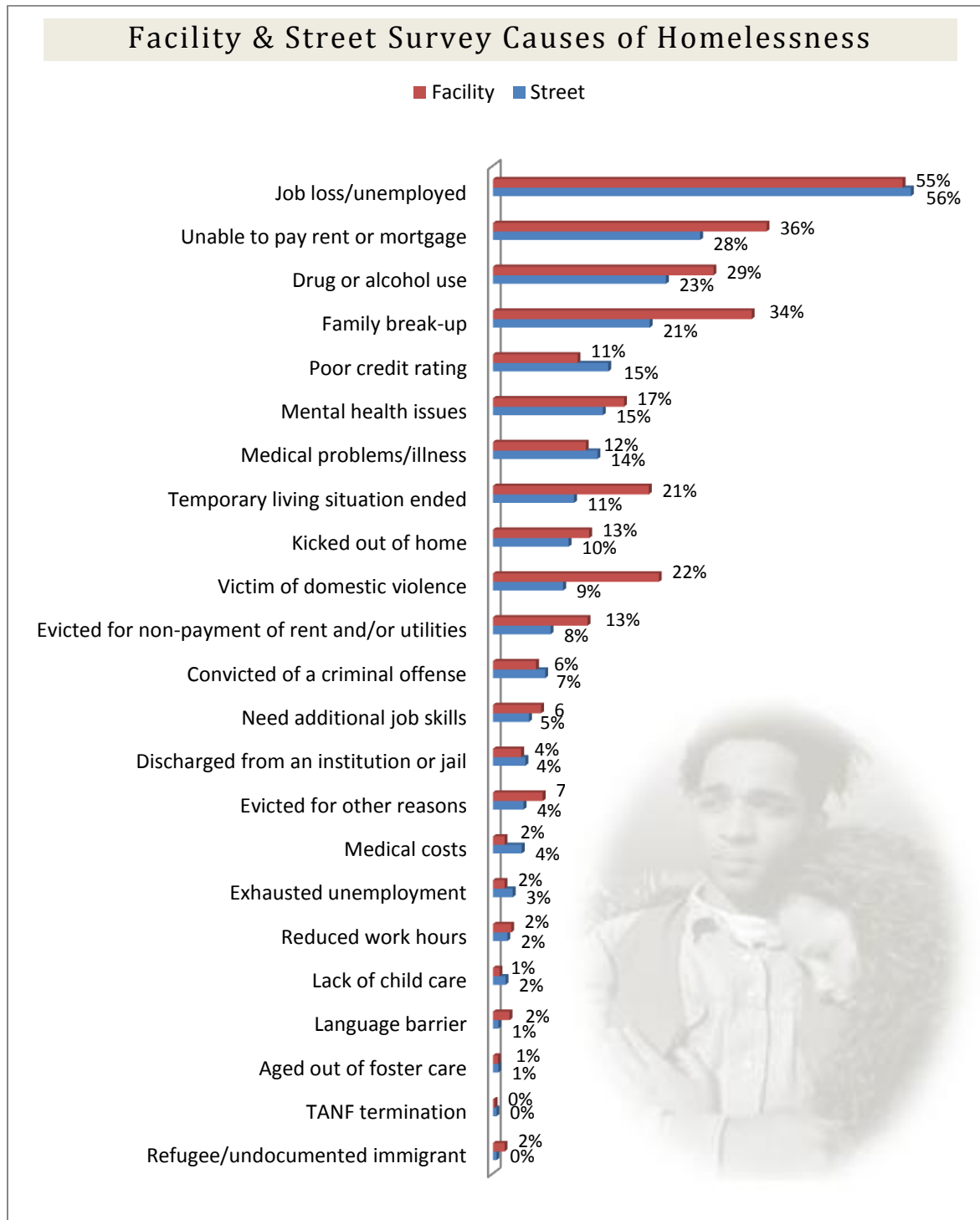
"I would like to have a shorter waiting list for Section 8 Housing. Having housing is a big help. I have two kids and am only working 10 hours a week and I would not make enough to have a place my own. I hope this program never ends. Other people can use this help."Anonymous

"The problem I ran into most often when working with homeless individuals was with difficulties they faced obtaining ID. It takes five pieces of ID to get State ID and without State identification you cannot receive government benefits, etc. GAU grants of \$339 a month won't cover even the lower rent SROs here in Snohomish County.".....Angel Johnson, Salvation Army

Unaccompanied Youth Length of Homelessness

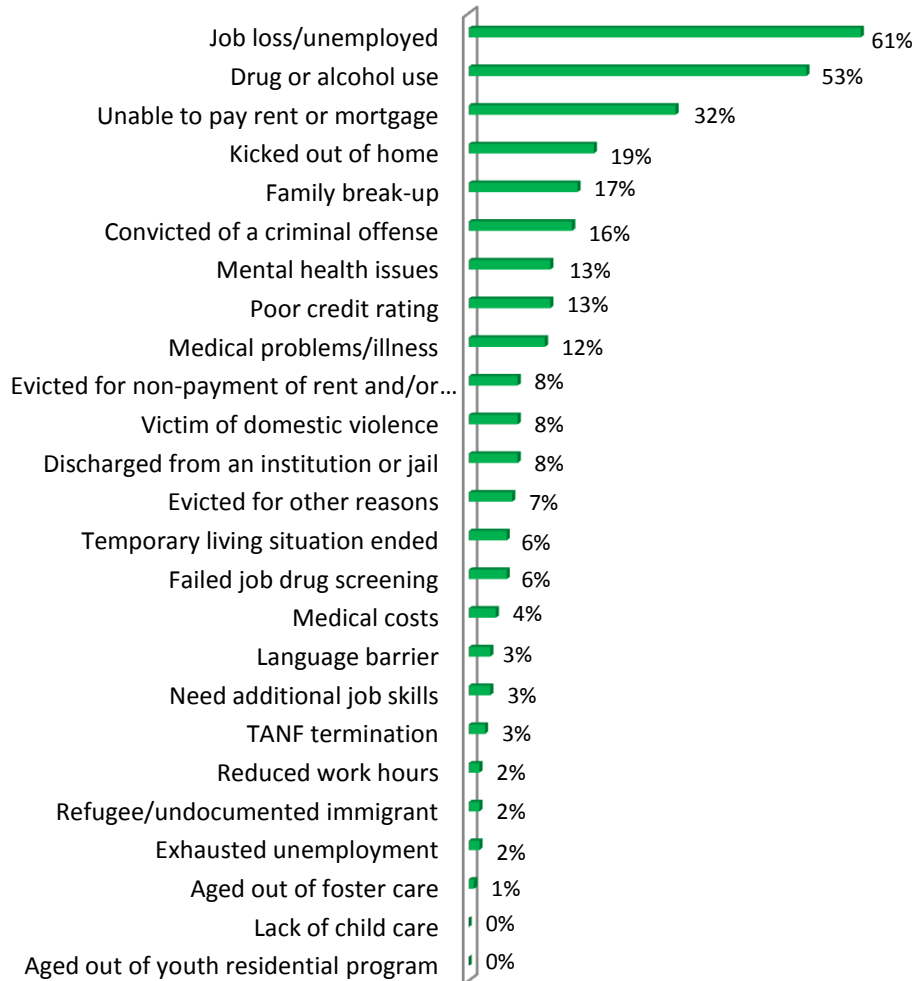


CONDITIONS, NEEDS AND CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS



*Self-reported Causes of Homelessness collected from facility and street surveys.

Jail Survey Causes of Homelessness

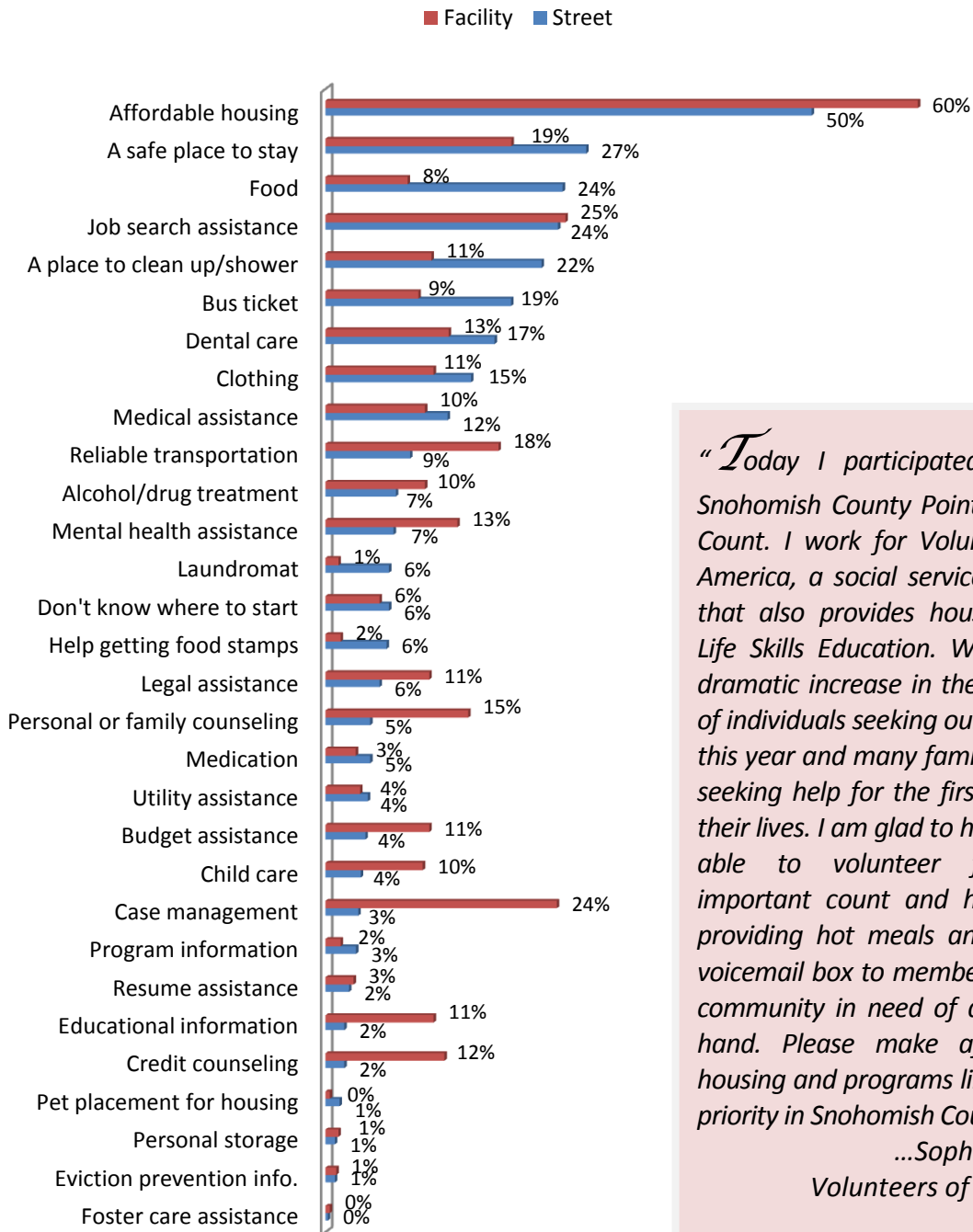


*Self-reported Causes of Homelessness collected from jail surveys.

"I thought I was used to dealing with homelessness as I work in the field, but was really taken back by the people I saw; individuals living in places not fit for human habitation. I could not believe that families were living in those conditions. We were out in rural areas and one family told me they couldn't even get to the food banks because they were eight miles from the bus stop. They told us where other homeless people were living and said their situations were just as hopeless. One man we spoke with indicated his wife was lying in bed crying about their situation. We gave him the supplies we had with us and said we would return the next day with some food. When we returned the man was wearing every item of clothing we had given him the day before. He said he showed his neighbors all of his new stuff. He was very excited about all the food we delivered and said he would share it with his neighbors. Surely, people living in the richest country on the face of the earth should not be living in such poverty."

...PIT Volunteer

Facility & Street Survey: Needs Distribution

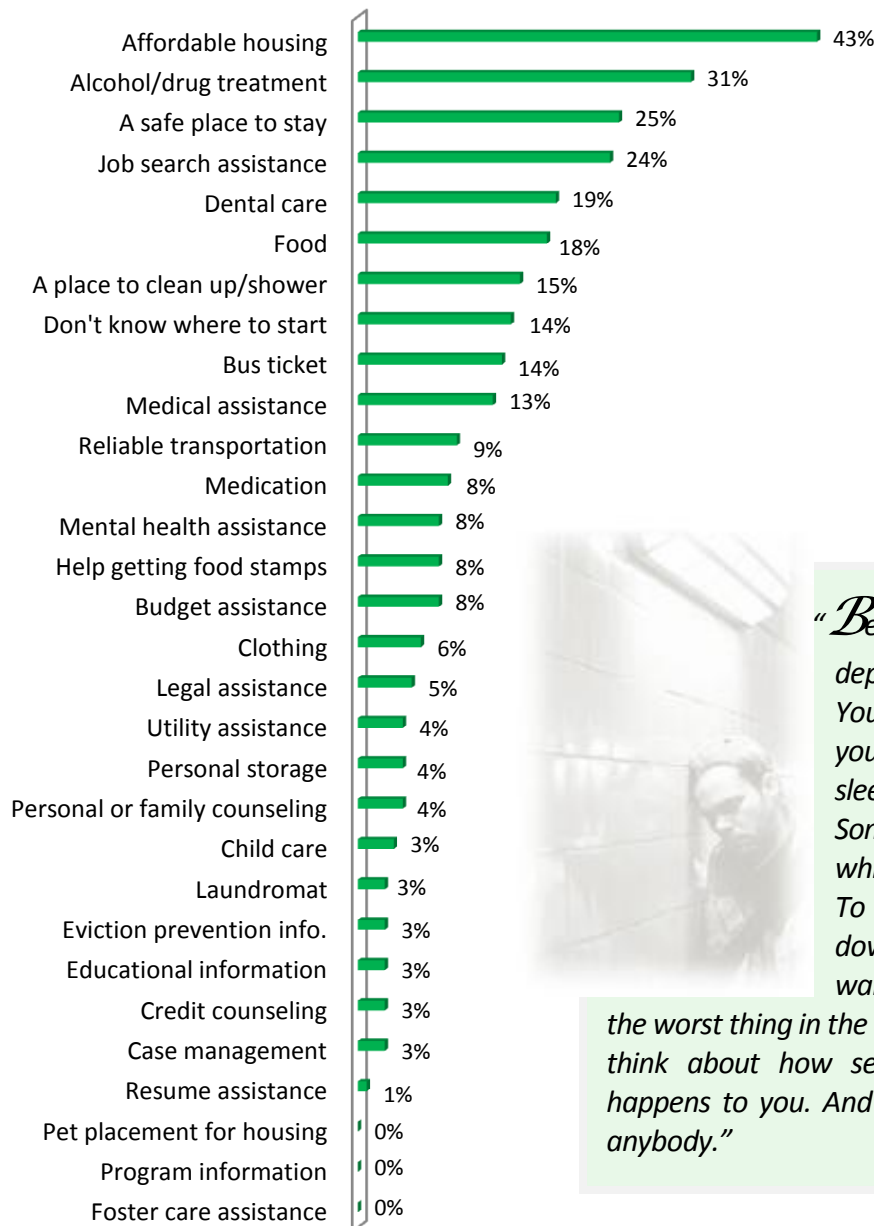


"Today I participated in the Snohomish County Point in Time Count. I work for Volunteers of America, a social service agency that also provides housing and Life Skills Education. We saw a dramatic increase in the number of individuals seeking our services this year and many families were seeking help for the first time in their lives. I am glad to have been able to volunteer for this important count and help with providing hot meals and a free voicemail box to members of our community in need of a helping hand. Please make affordable housing and programs like ours a priority in Snohomish County."

*...Sophia Ayele,
Volunteers of America*

*Self-reported Needs collected from facility and street surveys.

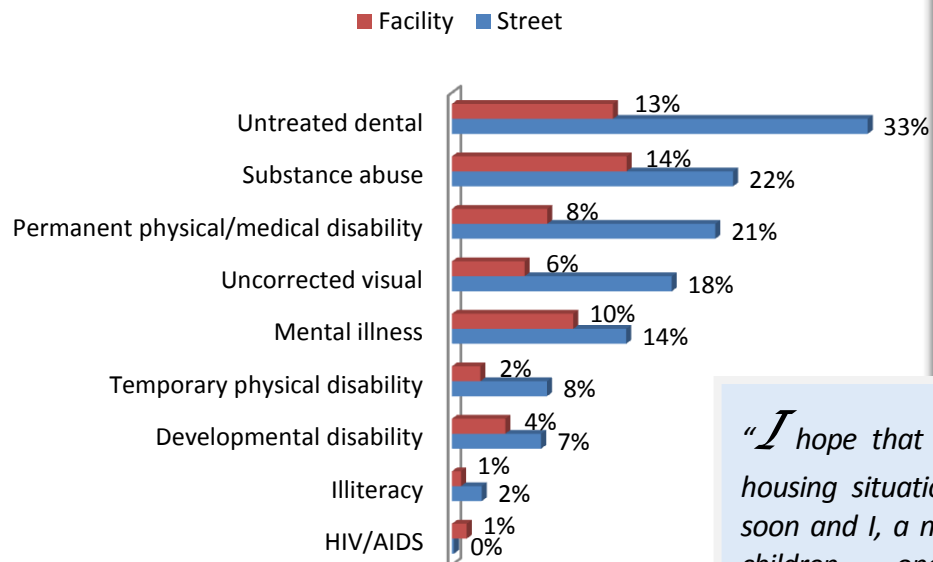
Jail Survey: Identified Needs



"Being homeless is a depressing situation. You have to find yourself a place to sleep every night. Some places are safe, while others are not. To see people looking down on you and not wanting to feed you is the worst thing in the world. You wouldn't think about how serious it is until it happens to you. And it could happen to anybody."
...Anonymous

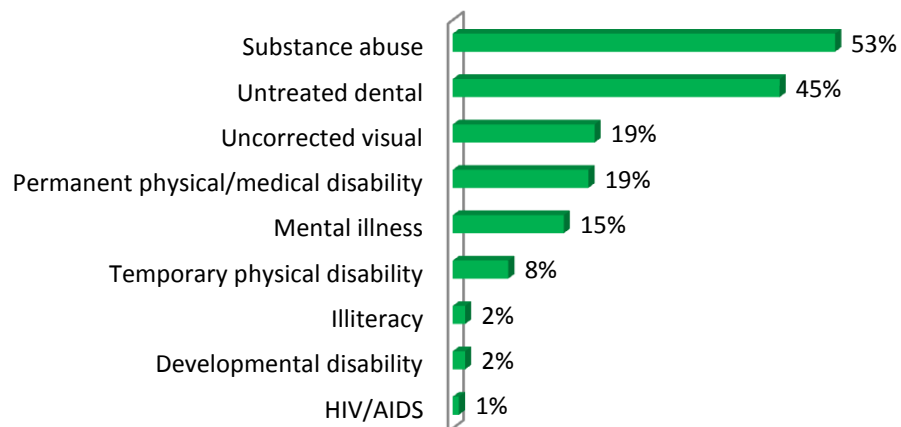
*Self-reported Needs collected from jail surveys.

Facility & Street Conditions

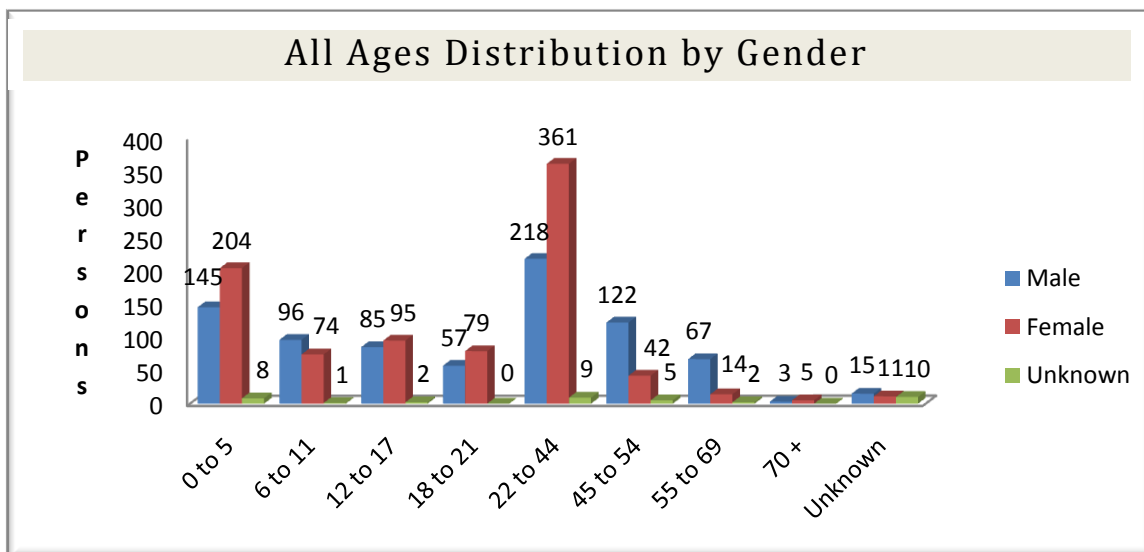
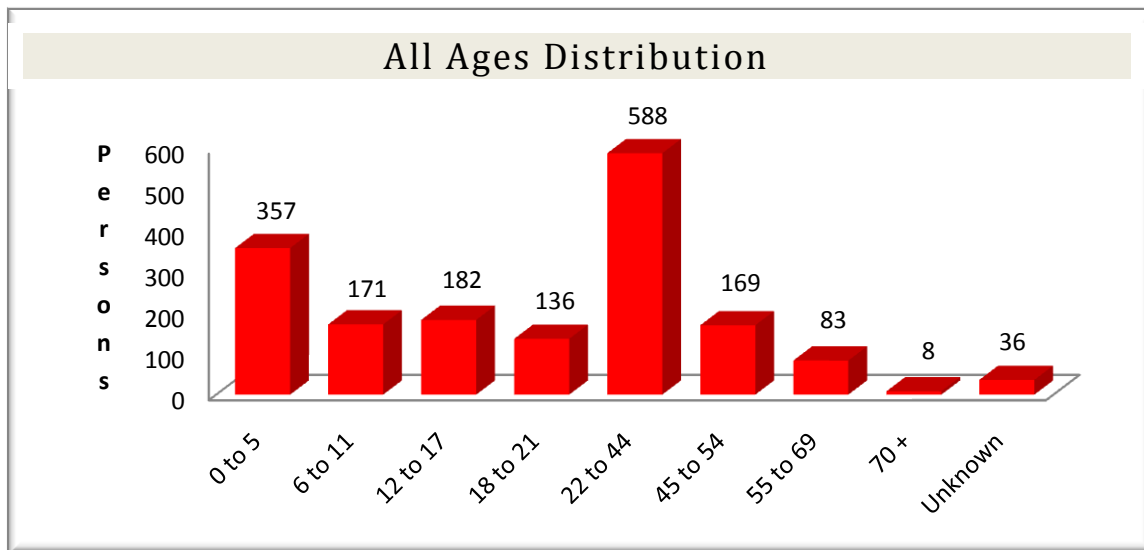


"I hope that the affordable housing situation will change soon and I, a mother of three children – one of which is disabled, will soon be able to find help and a roof over our head."
...Anonymous

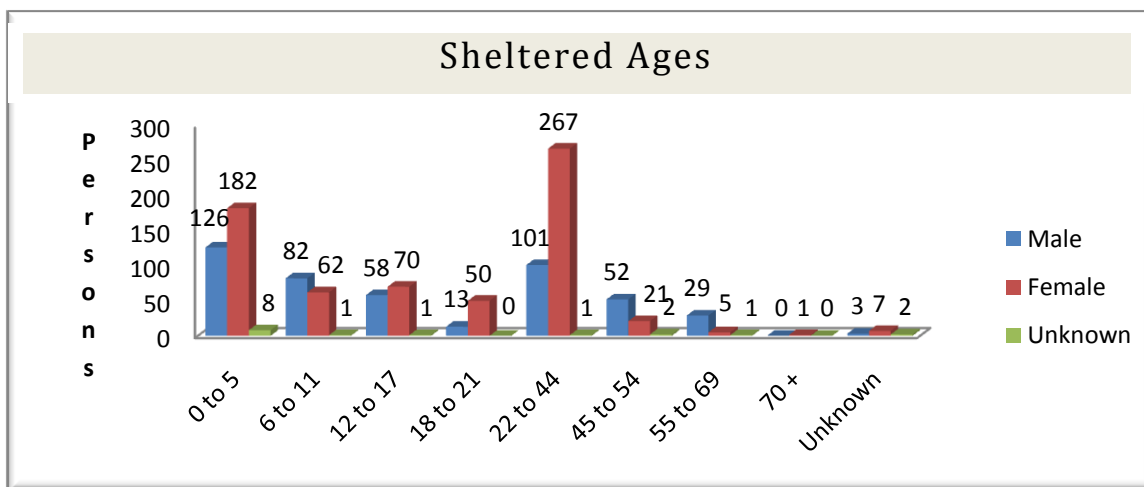
Jail Survey Conditions



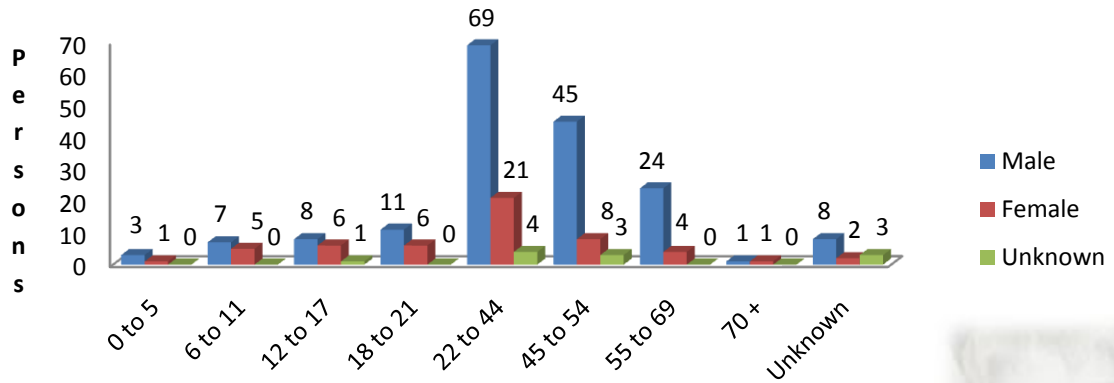
*Self-reported Conditions of Homelessness
collected from facility, street and jail surveys.



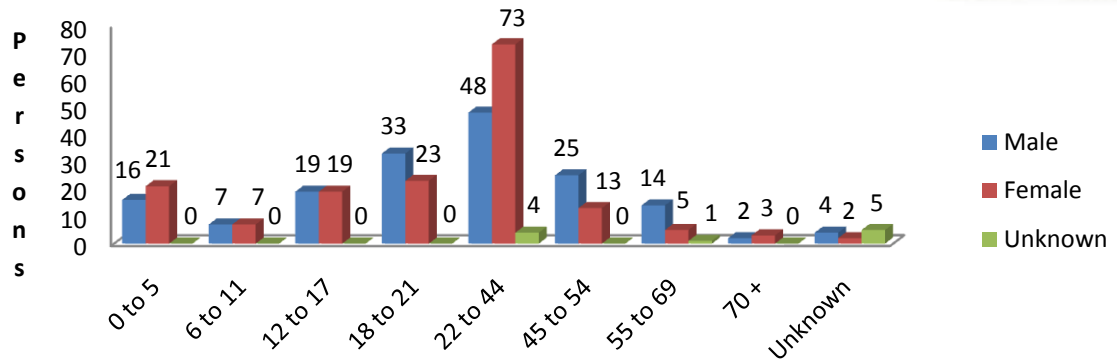
*All age distributions do not include tic sheet and jail data (based on facility and street surveys only).



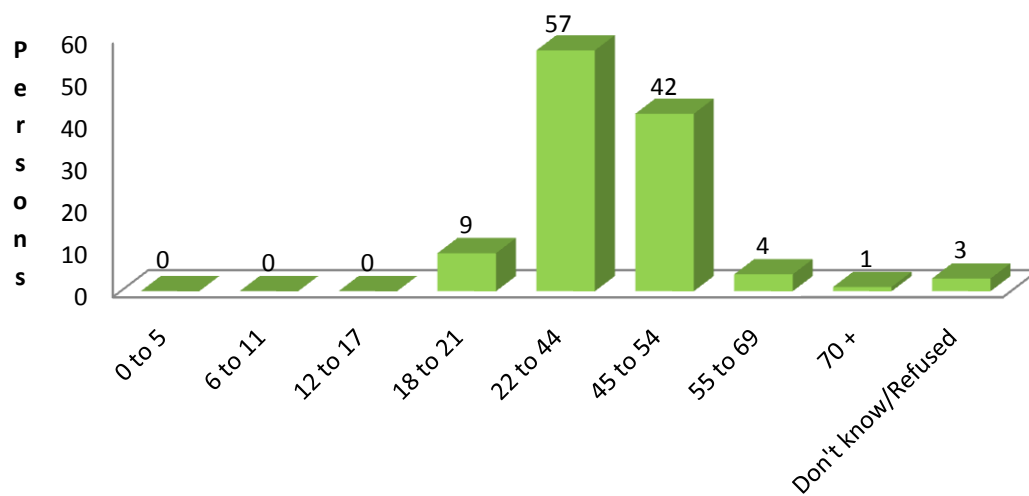
Unsheltered Ages

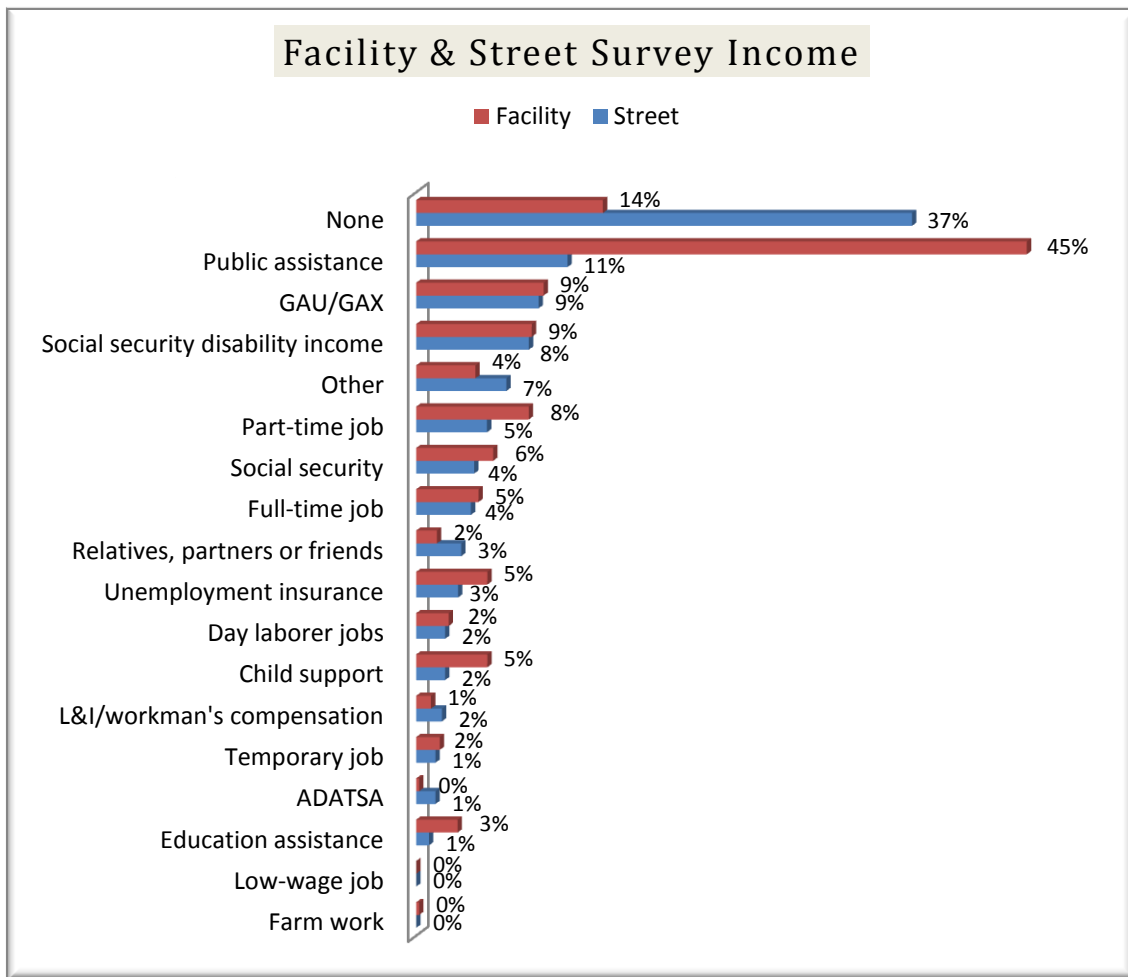


Precariously Housed Ages



Jail Age Distribution





*Self-reported sources of income

UNSHELTERED HOUSEHOLDS (HH)			EMERGENCY SHELTER HOUSEHOLDS (HH)		
	<i>Households</i>	<i>Individuals</i>		<i>Households</i>	<i>Individuals</i>
<i>Total Households</i>	439	613	<i>Total Households</i>	137	206
Households with Children			Households with Children		
Households w/children	48	173	Households w/children	26	89
Couples w/children	33	127	Couples w/children	6	33
Single parent HH	15	46	Single parent HH	20	56
Female single parents	12	37	Female single parents	17	48
Male single parents	3	9	Male single parents	3	8
Households without Children			Households without Children		
<i>Total HH without children</i>	391	440	<i>Total HH without children</i>	111	117
Single males	284	284	Single males	80	80
Single females	53	53	Single females	26	26
Transgender singles	3	3	Transgender singles	0	0
Unknown singles	7	7	Unknown singles	1	1
Couples without children	44	93	Couples without children	4	10

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING HOUSEHOLDS			PRECARIOUSLY HOUSED HOUSEHOLDS		
	<i>Households</i>	<i>Individuals</i>		<i>Households</i>	<i>Individuals</i>
<i>Total Households</i>	362	939	<i>Total Households</i>	217	365
Households with Children			Households with Children		
HH with children	279	851	HH with children	46	150
Couples with children	46	194	Couples with children	18	71
Single Parent HH	233	657	Single parent HH	28	79
Female single parents	218	614	Female single parents	20	55
Male single parents	15	43	Male single parents	8	24
Households without Children			Households without Children		
<i>Total HH without Children</i>	83	88	<i>Total HH without Children</i>	171	215
Single males	39	39	Single males	75	75
Single females	37	37	Single females	58	58
Transgender singles	0	0	Transgender singles	2	2
Unknown singles	2	2	Unknown singles	3	3
Couples without children	5	10	Couples without children	33	77
2010 TOTAL HOUSEHOLD NUMBER BREAKOUTS			2010 TOTAL HOUSEHOLD PERCENTAGE BREAKOUTS		
	<i>Households</i>	<i>Individuals</i>		<i>Households</i>	<i>Individuals</i>
<i>Total Households</i>	1155	2123	<i>Total Households</i>	1155	2123
Households with Children			Households with Children		
HH with children	399	1263	Households with children	35%	59%
Couples with children	103	425	Couples with children	9%	20%
Single parent HH	296	838	Single parent HHH	26%	39%
Female single parents	267	754	Female single parents	23%	36%
Male single parents	29	84	Male single parents	3%	4%
Households without Children			Households without Children		
<i>Total HH without Children</i>	756	860	<i>Total HH without Children</i>	65%	41%
Single males	478	478	Single males	41%	23%
Single females	174	174	Single females	15%	8%
Transgender singles	5	5	Transgender singles	0.40%	0%
Unknown singles	13	13	Unknown singles	1%	1%
Couples without children	86	190	Couples without children	7%	9%

"My story is not unlike the stories of other women who have lived with domestic violence (DV). I was in a classic DV situation and didn't realize it. Before I left the relationship to go to a shelter, my knowledge of DV was limited to what I had seen and heard in the media and wasn't even an accurate picture. I didn't believe DV would or could ever happen to me; after all, I was educated. I had a degree in bio-chemistry, was an aspiring writer and had successfully owned and operated a business with my husband (my abuser). I thought the definition of DV was to be physically abused and since I wasn't I didn't think I was a DV victim. It wasn't until I attended a DV group session (run by DVSSC) that I heard my story coming out of the mouth of another woman. What a painful moment of clarity for me... it was the beginning of my recovery. Until that moment I believed the only reason I was in the shelter was to protect my children from their father who I couldn't tell if he was just a bully, insane and/or dangerous.. There were a number of times he had threatened to kill me and he put the lives of my children in danger. The DVSSC transitional housing program offered me the time and support I needed to heal. I was able to attend an intensive DV program where I learned a great deal more about myself and how I had been conditioned to minimize the "red flags" present in my relationship. I learned about triggers; why I had been at-risk when I entered the abusive relationship I was in and why it was so difficult for me to leave that relationship.

*Women need help seeing and understanding their situations as well as knowing they are not alone. I know I am not alone now, but I didn't know it then. I was confused and terrified. I was just a shell of the person I once was. Because of DVSSC, I am finally beginning to feel free to be myself
...(Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County Program Participant)*

"I am a Family Advocate for a social service agency in Snohomish County and provide case management/advocacy for 20 women and their children that reside in transitional housing. On Thursday, January 28, 2010, I spent 12 hours entering data for the 2010 PIT Count at the south staging sight in Snohomish County. In addition to data entry, we surveyed homeless individuals responding to our sign for the PIT count. We saw a broad range of people on the street and at the staging locations. Young people, single men and two-parent families with children. Safe, healthy and affordable housing should NOT only be for the privileged. It should be accessible to every man, woman and child. We witnessed children accepting warm coats with such joy and amazement one would have thought they received the best present ever; a husband and wife who were absolutely thrilled they could have a blanket for each of their children and not just two for the entire family of six! There were young men who were excited to receive personal sanitary kits because they didn't have access to toothpaste, showers or deodorant. How can one look presentable for a job interview without a place to shower and clean up? How can one attend classes or start work fresh and ready to go if they are sharing their car (their home) with other family members? How can one take care of their mental and physical health, when they don't have a home or have access to healthcare because they don't have insurance? Please support policies and funding to make housing affordable!"

...Marva Marcus, YWCA

WHERE TO VOLUNTEER

Agency	Phone Number	Website or Email
<i>The Salvation Army</i>	425-258-1570	http://www.everettsarmy.org
<i>YWCA of Seattle-King County / Snohomish County</i>	425-258-2766	http://www.ywcaworks.org
<i>Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County</i>	425-259-2827 X 24	http://snococbw.org/index
<i>Volunteers of America Western Washington</i>	425-259-3191	http://www.voaww.org
<i>Housing Hope</i>	425-347-6556	http://www.housinghope.org
<i>Cocoon House</i>	425-259-5802	http://www.cocoonhouse.org
<i>Monroe Gospel Women's Mission</i>	360-863-9003	Dorothystima@aol.com
<i>Everett Gospel Mission</i>	425-252-1297	http://www.eqmission.org
<i>The Interfaith Association of NW Washington</i>	425-303-9774	http://www.interfaithwa.org
<i>Take the Next Step, Monroe</i>	360-794-1022	http://www.thenextstepmonroe.org
<i>Housing Authority of Snohomish County</i>	425-290-8499 X 518	http://www.hasco.org
<i>United Way of Snohomish County</i>	425-374-5534	http://www.uwsc.org

For questions about the PIT report or how to volunteer for next year's count, contact:

Nate Marti

Snohomish County Human Services Department

Office of Housing, Homelessness & Community Development

425-388-3268

nate.marti@co.snohomish.wa.us.